

December 7, 2004

Akin Supports Intelligence Reform Bill
Congressman Says Although Compromise
Command" Concerns, More Work Needed

Addresses "Chain of

Washington D.C. - Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) voted to enact the FY 2005 Intelligence Authorization Act, H.R. 4548. The bill will institute many of the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission, creating a Director of National Intelligence, establishing a strong counterterrorism network and streamlining communications among the 15 intelligence agencies and other related branches of the government.

Akin, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, was a vocal opponent of a previous version of the measure which would have weakened the traditional chain of command within our military regarding its use of intelligence. Akin joined the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), in fighting for a version of the bill which would uphold the ability of the military to utilize intelligence information and assets needed by war fighters on the ground.

"With a son ready to deploy as a Marine officer in Iraq later this month, I have been concerned with ensuring that our service personnel on fighting on the ground are not impeded by a remote layer of bureaucracy in Washington," said Akin. "I applaud Chairman Hunter for his leadership and his determination to see that the needs of our men and women in uniform are not short-changed."

Leading House Republicans held the line to make sure that our war fighters and national security concerns were not subjugated to tremendous political and partisan pressure. "In the end, America's national security maintained top priority because of a steadfast determination to protect national security interests in spite of partisan and political pressure," said Akin

Akin remains concerned that the legislation does not address border security issues sufficiently, but noted that the House leadership has promised that these

issues will be covered by additional legislation early next year.

"I am disappointed that this measure fails to institute needed border security reforms that were included in the original House version of the bill," said Akin. "The 19 terrorists who struck on September 11, 2001 were able to obtain 63 U.S. drivers licenses. These licenses helped the terrorists gain access to what they needed to conduct the attack and aided the terrorists in remaining in the U.S. after the expiration of visas.

"True security reform must deal effectively with issues of border security and I look forward to working to advancing border reform legislation when the new Congress convenes in January," Akin concluded.